

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES OF CHALCOPHAPS FROM NORTH-WESTERN AUSTRALIA.*

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(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 18th Nov., 1907.)

MR. Edwin Ashby, of Blackwood, South Australia, has kindly sent me for examination some bird skins collected recently by Mr. C. E. May while at Port Keats, North-Western Australia. Among them are three adult specimens of a Chalcophaps, which may be distinguished from the Northern and Eastern Australian form as follows:—

CHALCOPHAPS OCCIDENTALIS, *sp. nov.*

Adult Male.—Head, sides of neck, hind-neck, and upper back lilac-mauve, slightly darker on the occiput; most of the lesser wing coverts white, forming a conspicuous shoulder-patch; remainder of the upper wing coverts, secondaries, scapulars, and centre of back rich bronze-green, the feathers on the upper portion of the latter margined with lilac-mauve; primaries brown, their inner webs for two-thirds of their length and the basal portion of the outer web of all except the three outermost chestnut-rufous; lower back dull blackish crossed with a light grey band, and followed by a slight darker and more indistinct band; rump and upper tail coverts grey with narrow blackish margins to most of the feathers and becoming broader on the longest upper tail coverts; two centre tail feathers brown, the remainder blackish, except the three outer ones which are grey crossed with a blackish subterminal band; chin, throat, fore-neck, breast, and abdomen a delicate lilac-mauve, the feathers on the centre of the chin and upper throat with small pale buffy bases forming an indistinct central streak; the feathers on the abdomen with a greyish shade and those on the lower flanks washed with brown around their tips; basal under tail coverts grey, the remainder blackish. Total length 10.5 inches, wing 6.2, tail 3.8, bill 0.7, tarsus 1.

Adult Female.—Differs from the male in being duller in plumage except on the wings, in having only an irregular-shaped dull white bar on the lesser wing coverts, a more pronounced grey bar below the lower back, and the upper tail coverts dull chocolate-brown, but with similar blackish margins; tail feathers chocolate-brown all but the central pair, with a blackish terminal band, the outermost one on either side grey, with a black subterminal band. Wing 6.2 inches.

Habitat.—North-Western Australia.

Remarks.—Another adult male has the bronze colour on the

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wings more pronounced than in the specimen described above, and also has the centres of the blackish feathers on the lower back dull bronze. This species is allied to the well-known *Chalcophaps chrysochlora*, from which it may be distinguished by the lilac-mauve colour of the head, hind-neck, and upper back, the more pronounced bronze colour of the wings, and the larger white shoulder-patch.

Gould's vernacular name of Little Green Pigeon for *Chalcophaps chrysochlora* is not quite correct, for its wings only are green. It would also be incorrect to call *Chalcophaps occidentalis* the Western Green-winged Pigeon, for its wings are more of a bronze colour than green; I purpose, therefore, to distinguish it vernacularly by the name of the Lilac-mantled Pigeon.

NOTE ON GRANT'S BIRD OF PARADISE, *PARADISEA GRANTI*, NORTH.

BY ALFRED J. NORTH, C.M.Z.S., Ornithologist Australian Museum, Sydney.

(Read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria, 18th Nov., 1907.)

A SECOND specimen of *Paradisea granti*, originally described by me in the *Victorian Naturalist*,* has recently been lent me for examination. Like the type, it is a native-prepared skin, and was obtained, Mr. Grant informs me, at one of the German New Guinea ports (probably Frederick-Wilhelmshafen).

The skin is that of a fine old adult male, exhibiting the characteristic reddish-orange-coloured flank plumes of the type, but the metallic-green feathers extend lower down the throat, almost meeting the rich vinous-brown, velvety plumage of the fore-neck and upper breast. The latter, too, are longer, which is probably due to age, as is also the greater extent of metallic-green feathers on the throat; found also in very old birds of *Paradisea raggiana*.

Grant's Bird of Paradise is a very distinct species, and may be easily distinguished by its reddish-orange flank plumes. It is anticipated that a specimen will shortly be forwarded to London, to be figured.

"FROM RANGE TO SEA" is the title of a charming series of essays from the pen of Mr. Charles Barrett, dealing mainly with bird-life, which have the advantage of being daintily illustrated with pictures, mostly from the camera of Mr. A. H. E. Mattingley. The little volume is well printed, and should be in every nature lover's collection.

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